

# Distance from the Sun 42

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun.  
Pluto is the planet furthest away from the Sun.  
Look at this table:

Planet	Distance from the Sun in millions of kilometres	Distance from the Sun in model. Scale is...
Mercury	60	
Venus	110	
Earth	150	
Mars	230	
Jupiter	780	
Saturn	1400	
Uranus	2900	
Neptune	4500	
Pluto Dwarf planet	5800	

Put the planet models you made in activity 41 in order of their distance from the Sun.

What scale could you use to show the distances of each planet from the Sun?

Try different scales.

How far will your model spread if you use the same scale as in Activity 41 (1 cm to 1 000 km)?

Work out how far you would have to place Pluto from your model Sun.

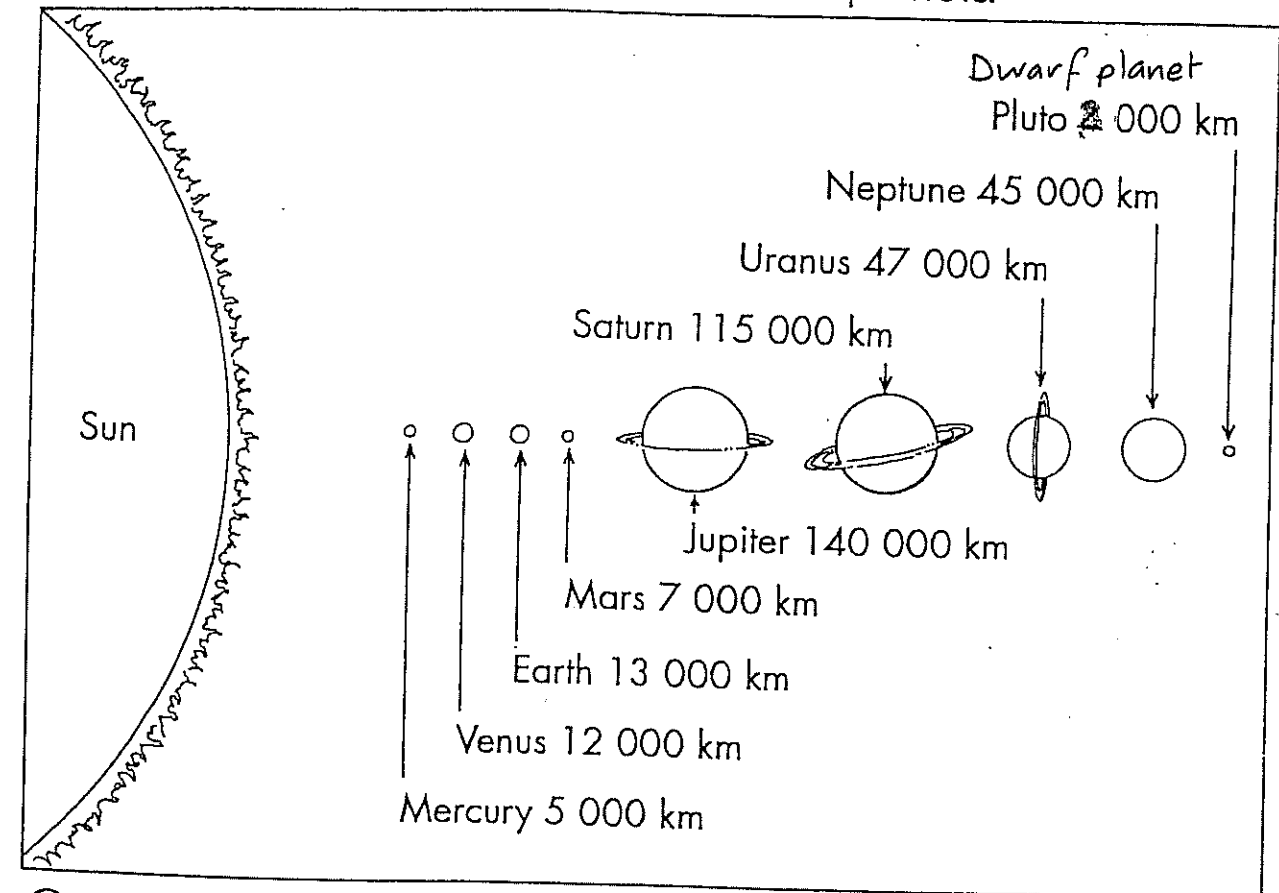
Find a scale you can fit into the school grounds.

Scale:.....

Distance of Pluto from Sun using this scale:.....

# The size of a planet 41

The planets of the Solar System vary in size.  
Some like Jupiter and Saturn have huge diameters.  
Others like Mercury are small.  
This drawing shows the diameters of the planets.



Cut paper or card circles for each of the planets so that 1 cm = 1 000 km.

The Earth's circle will be 13 cm in diameter.

Colour them using information from books.

The Sun is not a planet. It is a star. It has a diameter of 1 385 000 km.

How big would you have to make the Sun's circle?

What could you use to show the size of the Sun?